

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, XJ, NI, NG, RH, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NIGER HEAD OF STATE VISITS NIGERIA

1. ON MARCH 9, THE HEAD OF STATE OF NIGER, LT. COLONEL SEYNI KOUNTCHE, COMPLETED A FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA. KOUNTCHE VISITED KANO AND JOS IN ADDITION TO LAGOS.
2. THE FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL PRO-FORMA COMMENTS CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

BEGIN TEXT: IN THEIR REVIEW OF SUB-REGIONAL MATTERS, PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, THE CURRENT EVOLUTION OF WHICH THEY CONSIDERED MOST POSITIVE, ENCOURAGING ,
AND ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY.

ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, THE TWO HEADS OF STATE EXCHANGED VIEWS ABOUT EXISTING PROBLEMS IN WESTERN SAHARA AND THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, AND THEY EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR ALL SIDES TO THESE DISPUTES TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES BY PEACEFUL MEANS,
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BEARING IN MIND THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTERS OF THE O.A.U. AND OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION ABOUT THE HAPPY OUTCOME OF THE EFFORTS SO FAR MADE TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE BETWEEN LIBYA AND TCHAD, AND EXPRESSED THEIR HOPE THAT THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA WOULD BE RESOLVED IN A SIMILARLY AMICABLE MANNER, BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS, IN THE TRADITIONAL AFRICAN WAY.

FURTHERMORE, THEY REVIEWED THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY IN ZIMBABWE, AND THEY CONDEMNED AND CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE RECENT MANEUVERES BY THE ILLEGAL WHITE MINORITY REGIME TO DENY THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE THE RIGHT TO FREELY DETERMINE THEIR OWN AUTHENTIC LEADERS AND MAKE THEIR OWN POLITICAL CHOICE. THEY CALLED ON ALL STATES TO REJECT ANY ATTEMPT TO INSTALL AN ULDEMOCRATIC AND UNREPRESENTATIVE REGIME IN ZIMBABWE, AND GAVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE CURRENT EFFORTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO RESTORE GENUINE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS LEADING TO THE ATTAINMENT OF TRUE INDEPENDENCE BY ZIMBABWE.

FURTHERMORE, THEY RENEWED THEIR TOTAL SUPPORT FOR SWAPO AS THE AUTHENTIC LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA, AND THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WILL LEAD TO NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE, ENSURING HER NATIONAL UNITY AND FULL TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, WITHOUT ANY FURTHER DELAY.

THE TWO HEADS OF STATE REITERATED THEIR UNQUALIFIED CONDEMNATION OF THE ESCALATING REPRESSION OF THE BLACK MAJORITY POPULATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE CONTINUED DENIAL BY THE FASCIST APARTHEID REGIME OF THEIR RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT THE MAJOR AIM OF THE VISIT FROM THE NIGERIAN STANDPOINT WAS TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE TO NIGER-NIGERIAN RELATIONS BY LAST YEAR'S STRUGGLE FOR THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT. THIS INTENTION WAS REFLECTED IN OBASANJO'S WARM STATE BANQUET REMARKS WHEN HE DESCRIBED NIGER AS 'NIGERIA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOST DEPENDABLE ALLY AND TRUSTED FRIEND SINCE THE TWO COUNTRIES' ATTAINMENT OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE,' AND IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH SAID THE TWO HEADS OF STATE 'EXPRESSED THEIR COMPLETE SATISFACTION' WITH THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. RE NIAMEY 1056, JOINT COMMUNIQUE ALSO SAID THAT TWO HEADS OF STATE 'DECIDED TO GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE LAKE CHAD AND RIVER NIGER COMMISSIONS.' WE HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION RE DISCUSSIONS OF NIGER RIVER COMMISSION.
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